



Department of Public Infrastructure

Ronald H. Labelle
Commissioner

Water
Wastewater
Highways
Engineering
Cemeteries

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

March 22, 2013

Subject: National Flood Insurance Rate Map Appeal Process

Dear New Bedford Property Owner:

I am writing to make you aware that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently proposed changes to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) covering areas within the limits of the City of New Bedford.

To assist and educate local property owners about FEMA's proposed changes, the City's Department of Public Infrastructure is undertaking a variety of community outreach efforts, including this letter. If our records are correct and this mailing is being sent to the correct and current owner, be advised that it is our belief your property is identified as one located in a newly designated or changed flood zone area on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Map.

These proposed changes have the potential of impacting you by placing your property into a different flood risk zone than you have been located in previously. These proposed map changes are depicted on a draft FIRM dated September 2012 and these changes will become final upon completion of a FEMA appeal period which has a deadline of May 29, 2013. Since your property may be in a different risk flood zone, if you have a mortgage from a federally-regulated lender, then by federal law, your lender must require you to carry flood insurance or possibly change the flood insurance coverage when these flood maps become effective later this year.

To help inform affected property owners, the City has posted the proposed Flood Insurance Rate Map changes on the internet homepage of the Department of Public Infrastructure (www.newbedford-ma.gov/dpi/overview_admin.html) with an explanation of the meaning of the maps. We urge you to visit the DPI website and review the maps and the property list to verify your ownership status. **The City's homepage (www.newbedford-ma.gov) will also contain a link to the maps and list.** Information regarding the appeal process is also available. The City has scheduled a public meeting on April 10, 2013 at the Roosevelt Middle School located at 119 Frederick Street, New Bedford beginning at 6:30 PM. You are invited to attend the public meeting at which we will make a record of the questions and concerns and attempt to address each of the questions raised at the meeting to the best of our ability. The meeting on April 10 is an important opportunity for you, with the City's assistance, to learn more and make any concerns known to FEMA.

If you wish to view hard copies of the maps, they are available at the Department of Public Infrastructure, 1105 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford MA, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact DPI at 508 979-1550 and your question will be directed to an appropriate representative. Know that we are committed to lending whatever assistance we can in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Labelle
Commissioner, Department of Public Infrastructure

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